

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (USP 6,777,045), and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. and Gupta et al. (USP 6,020,035).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of "... introducing a species into said reaction chamber during or after said etching step (a) ...". Applicants' invention introduces the species during or after the step of etching a workpiece. The species are formed, for example, by etching of a substrate after etching of a workpiece or an internal chamber component during etching of a workpiece in the reaction chamber over a process cycle.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, Lin discloses forming a coating layer 420 on the chamber wall during the fabrication of the reaction chamber which becomes a part of the chamber wall surface 422 to promote the adherence of chamber generated particulate matter (see FIGs 2, 3a-c; column 7, line 16 - column 10, line 14; claims 1, 9, 17). Coating layer 420 is applied to the reaction chamber wall one time before the reaction chamber is used for processing substrates. After the reaction chamber is fabricated and put in use for processing substrates, no further coating layer 420 is formed on the chamber walls. Thus, Lin discloses forming a coating layer on the chamber wall before any type of processing (e.g. etching) is performed in the reaction chamber, and once the reaction chamber is used for processing no further coating layer is applied to the chamber walls. Therefore, Lin is silent on introducing the coating layer 420 during or after any step of processing a substrate.

Regarding the rejection of claim 9, claim 9 is dependent upon claim 1, as amended. As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated nor suggested by Lin et al., and Gupta et al. do not remedy the deficiencies in Lin et al. Thus, the combination of Lin et al. and Gupta et al. do not teach or suggest Applicants' claim 9.

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Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 103(a) have been overcome and it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be passed to issuance in view of the amendments and remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 18-24 are allowed and that claims 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-17 are dependent upon claim 1, as amended, and are in condition for allowance as discussed above.

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CONCLUSION

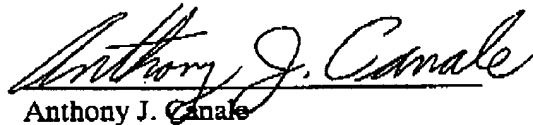
In light of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Cooney et al.,

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